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HHS AWARDS \$497,311 TO ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY TO SUPPORT LOCAL RESEARCH TO PREVENT ILLNESS AND IMPROVE HEALTH

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced that St. Louis University will receive \$497,311 to fund community-based research into local disease prevention and health promotion needs. The grant will support Feeling F.I.N.E.! (Fitness and Nutrition Enthusiasts), which will focus on the development and assessment of a program designed to increase physical activity levels as well as promote positive dietary measures such as increased consumption of fruits and vegetables and decreased dietary fat consumption among St. Louis residents.

“This grant will help identify critical health research needs in St. Louis so that we can better target community efforts to promote good health and prevent illness,” Secretary Thompson said. “By supporting such local projects across the country, we are helping to develop and implement effective local strategies to improve the health of residents.”

The grant is one of 25 similar HHS awards across the country to support research in a variety of areas such as physical activity, diabetes, youth and school-based health, nutrition, obesity, asthma, drug prevention, tobacco prevention and violence/injury prevention. Findings from these research projects should assist communities develop public health policies and practices designed to promote health and reduce disease, disability and injury among specific populations.

The awards are being made under the extramural prevention research program at HHS’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Grantees were chosen from more than 300 applicants.

“Community-based, peer-reviewed research is the foundation of the public health system. This program signals CDC’s commitment to strengthen infrastructure and community public health capacity through peer-reviewed research that has immediate relevance to the needs of public health practitioners, community policymakers and concerned citizens,” said Dr. Julie Gerberding, CDC director.

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